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FLORIDA HEALTH IN OKALOOSA COUNTY ISSUES HEALTH ADVISORY FOR TOM'S BAYOU



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Okaloosa County, Fla.— The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa) has issued a health advisory for the Tom's Bayou area to the Highway 20E Bridge in Valparaiso, Florida, due to a sewage spill occurrence at Hidden Cove Townhomes. Area includes Tom's Creek on the west side to Highway 20E, in Valparaiso. The entire area is approximately 2,450 feet in width and 590 feet in depth.

The City of Valparaiso reported a release of 60,000 gallons of raw sewage due to equipment failure, at a lift station in Okaloosa County. It is unknown if the release entered any storm drains, however, it did it enter the Tom's Bayou. Clean up actions are in progress.

The spill has been properly reported to local FDEP, local FDOH, and the State Warning Point system. Once satisfactory results are achieved, the health advisory will need to be lifted through a future press release.

Waters contaminated with wastewater presents several health hazards to humans and may contain untreated human sewage with microbes that could cause gastro-intestinal and other diseases. Anyone who comes into contact with the effected waterway should wash thoroughly, especially before eating or drinking. Children and older adults, as well as people with weakened immune systems, are particularly vulnerable to disease so every precaution should be taken if in contact with the affected waters.

For more information about the potential health effects of wastewater overflow, residents and visitors are encouraged to contact DOH-Okaloosa at (850) 833-9247 or www.healthyokaloosa.com.

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